

Pollinator Identification Guide

A guide to the different groups of pollinating insects you might see visiting your plots and how to identify them. This is not a comprehensive guide- we have included [links](#) to more detailed guides below. All the fantastic photos in this guide were provided by [Will George](#).

BUMBLEBEES

LARGE, FURRY bees with **rounded bodies** and dark legs, [bumblebees](#) may have **stripes of yellow, white or brown** depending on the species. There are 24 different species of bumblebee in the UK.



Buff-tailed bumblebee



Common Carder bumblebee



Red-tailed bumblebee



Early bumblebee

HONEYBEES

There is one species of [honeybee](#) in the UK, **Smaller and more slender** than bumblebees, they are **orangey-yellow to brown with dark stripes** and have shiny back legs, which are often packed with pollen.



Honeybees- note pollen baskets on hind legs.



Bees have two pairs of wings

Solitary bees carry pollen on their body



Mining bee



Leafcutter bee

Long antenna with 'elbow' joint



Mining bee

WASPS

Social wasps are **more SMOOTH looking** and much less hairy than bees. They usually have bright **yellow and black** stripes, and yellow legs. Solitary wasps vary in colour and size, from small and black to metallic red, blue and green.



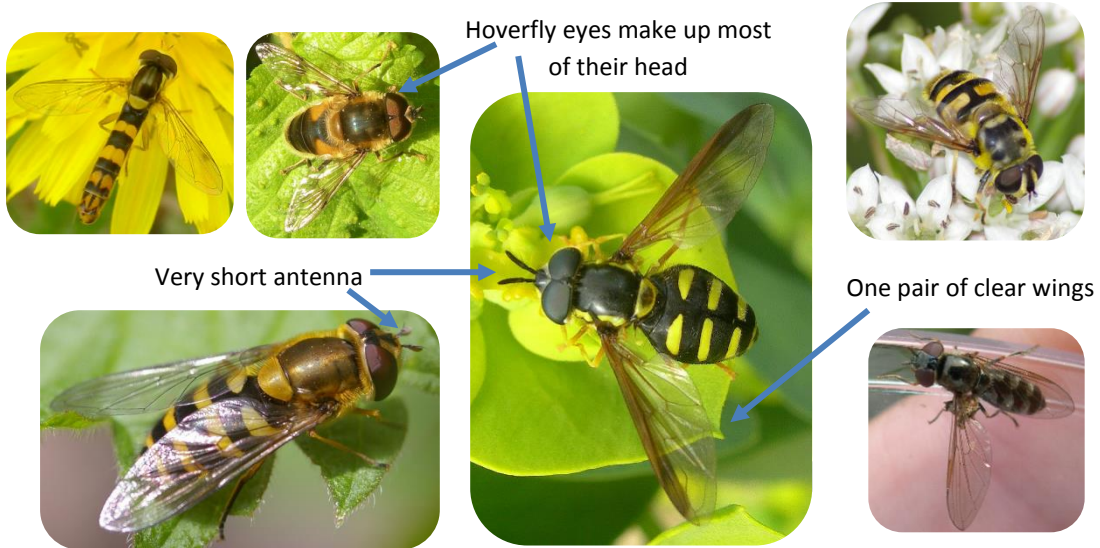
Social wasps are usually black and yellow

Solitary 'jewel' wasps are often parasites of solitary bees



HOVERFLIES

Many [hoverflies](#) mimic bees/wasps and have a stripy pattern. They have very **SHORT STUBBY ANTENNAE** and **LARGE EYES**. Hover/dart between flowers.



OTHER FLIES



Other flies, such as metallic soldier flies also visit flowers. They also have **short antennae**, **large eyes** and one pair of clear wings.



BETTERLES



[Beetles](#) outer wings form a **hard protective cover** (elytra) which is often shiny or metallic and forms a t-shape on their back.

BUTTERFLIES and MOTHS

[Butterflies](#) have **BRIGHTLY COLOURED WINGS** and long antennae. Butterflies fly during the day and have **clubs at the end of their antennae**. Most moths fly at night and have feathery antennae.

